



# NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS, INC.™

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March 20, 2020

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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

We appreciate the difficult decisions that need to be made to protect the public health, safety and welfare when dealing with the Coronavirus. Certain prudent measures are needed to prevent the spread of the virus, such as limiting or prohibiting large gatherings, as well as events, activities and businesses that attract congregations of people.

I am writing to respectfully urge that any order limiting business activities be mindful of the unique characteristics of the engineering, surveying, and geospatial profession and that these activities not be closed or limited.

Field work in surveying can continue with low risk. Field crews are commonly 1 or 2 persons, they do not have to work in close physical proximity to one another, and they don't engage with the general public. In many circumstances, survey technicians can do their work more quickly and more efficiently in the current environment due to reduced traffic on our streets.

Aerial data acquisition, such as aerial photography for mapping, also known as photogrammetry and airborne LiDAR collection, is time sensitive. Such projects must be flown in the coming days and weeks when there is no snow on the ground, the sun is high enough in the sky so as to not cast long shadows, and the leaves have not yet come out on trees. This activity cannot wait and resume later this year. An entire season/year would be lost. If this data is not acquired now, the work of thousands of employees who will be spending the rest of this year analyzing and processing that data will be terminated, causing a serious long-term threat to economic recovery. Moreover, important projects such as resilience, flood plain mapping, development, infrastructure, and environmental protection, that are dependent on this data will be delayed, again, stifling longer term economic recovery. It is important to note that the work performed by surveyors and those in their employ are necessary for "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers", as defined by Department of Homeland Security guidance, to perform their necessary and critically important responsibilities in service to our fellow citizens.

Affiliate of the National Society of Professional Land Surveyors

REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS: Allegheny Plateau Association of Professional Land Surveyors • Black River Valley Association of Professional Land Surveyors • Catskill Area Association of Land Surveyors • Central New York Society of Land Surveyors • City Surveyors Association of Greater New York • Delaware-Hudson Land Surveyors Association • Eastern New York Society of Land Surveyors • Genesee Valley Land Surveyors Association • Long Island Association of Land Surveyors • Mid-Hudson Valley Land Surveyors Association, Inc. • Mohawk Valley Society of Professional Land Surveyors • Nassau-Suffolk Civil Engineers, Inc. • Niagara Frontier Land Surveyors Association • Northern New York Association of Land Surveyors • Southern Finger Lakes Association of Professional Land Surveyors • Southern Tier Association of Land Surveyors • Surveyors Association of Queensboro, Inc. • Westchester-Putnam Association of Professional Land Surveyors, Inc.

Any stop-work or work from home order can and should exempt such surveying-related field activities (office survey staff are already working from home). Such an exemption would not create a risk of persons being infected or spreading the virus.

An exception for these types of activities would alleviate the impact on surveying business, as well as other planning, design, construction, and other downstream economic activities, businesses, and industries that are dependent on surveying for other livelihoods. This can be done without increasing risk to our society.

Finally, government at all levels should continue to fund and provide notices to proceed on surveying projects and not bring them to a halt.

For the reasons stated above, these activities can be carried out with low health and safety risk, are vital to keeping our economy moving forward, and should not be limited or curtailed.

We respectfully urge you to implement policies that are mindful of the unique characteristics of our profession and the long-term impact a limitation on surveying will have on our economy. Please permit us to continue working in a safe and responsible manner, to serve our fellow citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel E. Marvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Marvin" clearly distinguishable.

Daniel E. Marvin, LS  
President